

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2.
Figures 1 and 2 are amended to include the legend "PRIOR ART".

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are now pending, wherein claim 11 is amended and claims 13-18 are new. Claims 2-5 are withdrawn from examination.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that dependent claims 7-10 contain allowable subject matter.

The specification and drawings are objected to for minor informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification and claims address the informalities identified in the Office Action.

Claim 11 is rejected for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 11 addresses the issues identified in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. patent No. 2,893,258 to Meyer ("Meyer"). Claim 11 is rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Meyer. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Meyer does not render Applicant's claim 1 unpatentable because Meyer does not disclose or suggest an apparatus for releasing a jam between an inter-engaged lead screw and a nut that includes "a device for operating the jam

release device when the normal operating correlation between torque applied to the actuator by the motor and the output force of the actuator corresponding to normal unjammed operation of the actuator under load is lost.”

Meyer is directed to a system that eliminates noise “when the nut reaches its limit of travel or encounters an obstruction.”¹ Meyer does not, however, address jamming occurring “between an inter-engaged lead screw and a nut.”

Moreover, in Meyer plunger 70 interconnects ring 38 and housing 22, which causes the nut to disengage from the ring, and in turn allows the nut to rotate in place with the screw 14.² Meyer does not disclose that this is performed “when the normal operating correlation between torque applied to the actuator by the motor and the output force of the actuator corresponding to normal unjammed operation of the actuator under load is lost.” Accordingly, Meyer also does not disclose the claimed “device for operating the jam release device.”

The Office Action relies upon Belleville spring washer 52 of Meyer as corresponding to the claimed “device for operating the jam release device.” Meyer, however, does not disclose that washer 52 operates a jam release device “when the normal operating correlation between torque applied to the actuator by the motor and the output force of the actuator corresponding to normal unjammed operation of the actuator under load is lost.”

¹ Column 1, lines 41-44.

² Column 4, lines 21-29.

The jam release arrangement of the present invention is particularly well-suited for aerospace requirements, e.g., for use with a control surface or helicopter swash-plate. The declutching performed by the device of Meyer would not be acceptable in aerospace applications, such as that recited in claim 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is not obvious in view of Meyer.

Claims 6 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over Meyer at least by virtue of their dependency.

For at least those reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1, 6 and 11 be withdrawn.

New claims 13-18 recite similar elements to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, and are patentably distinguishable over the current grounds of rejection for similar reasons.


If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038665.55449US).

Respectfully submitted,

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